Pendency of cases in Supreme Court and High Courts

†*106. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pendency of large number of cases in the Supreme Court and the High Courts in the country has shaken the confidence of the people in the administration of justice;

(b) the number of cases pending in various High Courts (High Court-wise) and Supreme Court as on 31st October, 2001 and the number, out of them, which are pending for more than a decade; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to bring down the pendency in Courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

The pendency of cases in the Supreme Court of India has registered a substantial decline, from 1,04,936 cases as on 31.12.1991 to 58,794 cases as on 01.01.1994 and to 21,995 as on 31.10.2001. Thus, the Supreme Court has already brought down its pendency to a manageable level.

A similar breakthrough is yet to be achieved in respect of pendency of cases in the High Courts, where over 35 lakh cases are pending as on date. This is largely due to an increase in the rate of institution of cases which is symptomatic of a sustained credibility of the higher judiciary in the country.

However, both the Government and the Judiciary are acutely conscious of the need to bring down the pendency level in the High Courts.

(b) The information is enclosed in the Statement. (*see* below)

(c) Various measures have been taken for expeditious disposal of cases by High Courts which include grouping and classification of cases involving similar questions of law, setting up of specialized benches, computerization of records, etc. Schemes for computerization and networking of courts are being undertaken to augment their capacities and to speed up disposal of cases. Besides establishment to Special Tribunals, efforts are also being made to adopt alternative modes of dispute resolution such as arbitration, conciliation and settlement of cases through Lok Adalats.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The High Courts are addressed periodically requesting them to initiate action for filling up of vacancies of Judges well before these vacancies arise.

Statement

Number of cases pending in Supreme Court and in various High Courts

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Number of cases pending	Cases pending for more than Ten Years	As on
	Supreme Court	21, 995	425	31.10.2001
	High Courts:—			
1.	Allahabad	8,67,584	2,88,472	6/2001
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1,63,794	3,675	6/2001
3.	Bombay	2,94,915	28,131	12/2000
4.	Calcutta	2,82,808	1,27,190	3/2001
5.	Delhi	1,78,001	35,865	12/2000
6.	Guwahati	41,317	118	3/2001
7.	Gujarat	1,41,046	15,253	9/2001
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15,604	26	3/2001
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	32,762	732	6/2001
10.	Karnataka	89,924	733	6/2001
11.	Kerala	4,05,469	3,979	6/2001
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1,17,141	6,919	6/2001
13.	Madras	3,50,107	6,573	12/2000
14.	Orissa	1,29,822	4,747	6/2001
15.	Patna	78,595	5,844	6/2001
16.	Punjab & Haryana	2,33,370	48,951	6/2001
17.	Rajasthan	1,32,306	7,298	12/2000
18.	Sikkim	122	2	9/2001
19.	Chhattisgarh	(Newly created High Court)		
20.	Jharkhnad	(Newly created High Court)		
21.	Uttaranchal	(Newly created High Court)		
	Total	35,54,687	5,84,508	